



Technology for Youth and Jobs (P172571)

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | West Bank and Gaza | Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice | Special Financing | Investment Project Financing | FY 2020 | Seq No: 6 | ARCHIVED on 14-Nov-2023 | ISR58184 |

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology via a private sector implementing agency, The Palestine Liberation Organization (for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority)

Key Dates**Key Project Dates**

Bank Approval Date: 12-Jun-2020

Effectiveness Date: 06-Oct-2020

Planned Mid Term Review Date: 11-Nov-2024

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:

Original Closing Date: 30-Oct-2028

Revised Closing Date: 30-Oct-2028

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

To increase economic opportunities for IT service firms in the West Bank and Gaza.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components Table

Name
Improving IT service capabilities:(Cost \$13.95 M)
Improving the IT services ecosystem:(Cost \$8.83 M)
Improving market access, and increasing demand and investments:(Cost \$2.34 M)
Project management and Implementation Support:(Cost \$5.43 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The Technology for Youth and Jobs (TechStart) project was declared effective on October 6, 2020 and has since disbursed \$6.91 million. Additional financing for the project in the amount of US\$15.55 was approved on March 10 with the contributions from Switzerland, the Netherlands and the EU.

Following the launch of the UpSkill program (under Component 1) in February 2022 and the PIONEER program (under Component 2) in August 2022, implementation has progressed during the current reporting cycle as programs matured further and the market became more aware of project interventions. The project is gearing up to launch a number of pending activities that will aim to improve firm managerial capabilities, increase the involvement of women in leadership positions in the IT sector, and ensure greater FDI in the Palestinian IT services sector. These activities will initially focus on West Bank and be expanded to Gaza when possible.



The conflict in Gaza is negatively affecting the progress of some project activities. The extent will depend on the duration and severity of the situation. The World Bank has started identifying resilience and recovery measures to support firms to be implemented as and when the situation permits.

Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	High	High	High
Macroeconomic	High	High	High
Sector Strategies and Policies	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
Technical Design of Project or Program	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	High	Substantial	Substantial
Fiduciary	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
Environment and Social	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Stakeholders	High	Substantial	Substantial
Other	--	Substantial	High
Overall	High	Substantial	Substantial

Results

PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

To increase economic opportunities for IT service firms in the West Bank and Gaza				
► Buyers signing new contracts with local IT service firms benefitting from project activities (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	77.00	60.00
Date	01-Feb-2023	01-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
Comments:	<p>Buyers signing new contracts with local IT service firms benefitting from project activities (Number) is a new indicator that will track the number of buyers signing new contracts and will be broken down by international and local buyers. This indicator will replace the previous PDO level indicator 'Value of new contracts signed between local IT service firms benefitting from project activities and international buyers'. The PIA has not yet updated results related to this new indicator since the changes coincided precisely with the timing of the ISR.</p>			



<input type="checkbox"/> Of which are international buyers (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	46.00	50.00
Date	01-Feb-2023	01-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
<input type="checkbox"/> Of which are local buyers (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	31.00	10.00
Date	01-Feb-2023	01-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
► Additional private investment generated by benefiting firms (Amount(USD), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	1,486,309.00	2,730,373.00	10,000,000.00
Date	29-Oct-2020	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
Comments:	<p>This PDO-level indicator was updated to consolidate the measurement of new investment catalyzed from all sources and across all components of the project, the PDO indicator 'Additional private investment made by firms benefiting from project activities toward technology and skill upgrading' was merged with the IRI 'Foreign direct investment generated by the project (Amount (USD))' to form a new PDO-level indicator 'Additional private investment generated by benefiting firms'. This new PDO-level indicator will be broken down by investment from local sources and international sources. The additional private investment is the financial resources invested by firms that are (i) receiving grants for technology and skills upgrading and / or (ii) benefiting from on-the-job training stipends offered by the project. Private sector investment is in further highly skilled labor hiring and managerial capabilities enhancement to be able to get further opportunities from international outsourcing companies. Also this will capture private sector investments in R&D hubs to serve businesses needs required to satisfy international outsourcing companies' requirements.</p> <p>Until Q2 2023, the additional private investment made by firms benefiting from project activities towards technology and skill upgrading was \$2,730,373 out of which \$2,675,373 were investments from local sources and \$55,000 were investments from international sources.</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Of which from local sources (Amount(USD), Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	2,675,373.00	7,000,000.00
Date	01-Feb-2023	01-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
<input type="checkbox"/> Of which from international sources (Amount(USD), Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	55,000.00	3,000,000.00



Date	01-Feb-2023	01-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
► Additional IT services jobs created (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	423.00	483.00	2,500.00
Date	01-Feb-2023	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
Comments:	<p>This new PDO-level indicator on jobs 'Additional IT services jobs created (number)' was created by merging IRIs from Component 1 'Individuals benefiting from project training activities who reported employment (Number)' and Component 2 'Additional high-skilled IT services jobs created by local firms benefiting from project activities (Number)', which were dropped.</p> <p>The disaggregation of the IRIs by component was stopped based on lessons learned from project implementation. Tracking results by component has proven difficult as the various components both are mutually reinforcing and target the same outcomes from various angles.</p>			
□ Reported by individuals benefiting from project training activities (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	31.00	40.00	1,000.00
Date	01-Feb-2023	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
□ Reported by local firms benefiting from project activities (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	392.00	443.00	1,500.00
Date	01-Feb-2023	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
□ Of which are female (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	16.00	58.00	450.00
Date	01-Feb-2023	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028

Overall Comments

Under the Additional IT service jobs created, the sub- indicator 'Reported by individuals benefiting from project activities' was not captured in its entirety for this reporting period since the survey to individual beneficiaries was not circulated, as is usually the case, due to the change in M&E specialist. Results are currently being tracked, and the indicator will be updated with full year results in the next ISR.

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components



Improving IT services capabilities, ecosystem, market access, and increasing demand and investment

► Individuals benefiting from project training activities (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	168.00	314.00	1,200.00
Date	29-Oct-2020	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028

□ Out of which are female (Number, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	71.00	147.00	500.00
Date	29-Oct-2020	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028

► Individuals benefiting from project activities reporting satisfied or very satisfied with support received (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	95.00	89.00	75.00
Date	25-Oct-2022	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028

► Local firms benefiting from project activities (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	44.00	62.00	250.00
Date	29-Oct-2020	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028

► Local firms benefiting from project activities that adopted female employment solutions (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
Date	29-Oct-2020	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028

► New firms established by project seed grants (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Date	29-Oct-2020	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028

□ Out of which are new female-led firms (Number, Custom Breakdown)



	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Date	29-Oct-2020	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028
► Firms reporting satisfied or very satisfied with support received (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	92.00	93.00	75.00
Date	29-Oct-2020	28-Feb-2023	29-Sep-2023	01-Nov-2028

Performance-Based Conditions

Data on Financial Performance

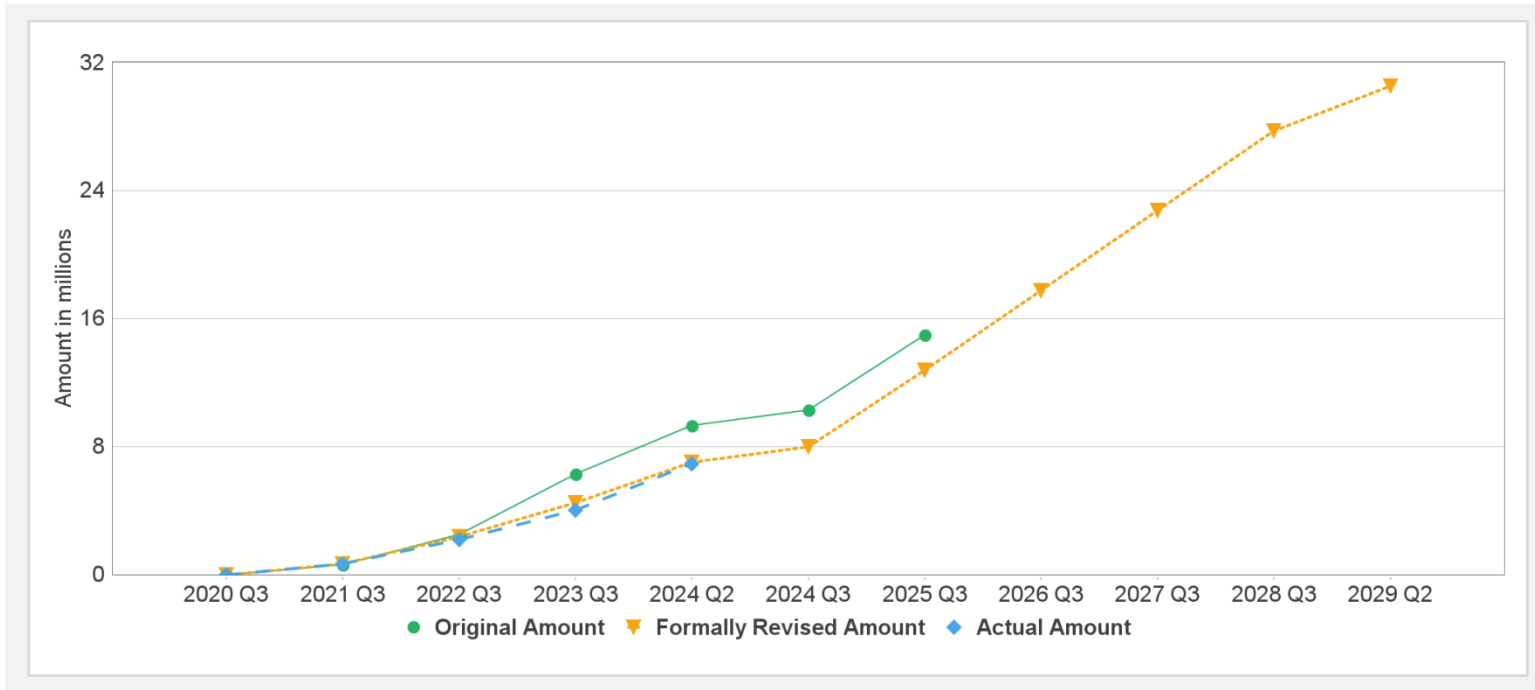
Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P172571	TF-B2944	Effective	USD	15.00	15.00	0.00	5.07	9.93	34%
P172571	TF-C0774	Closed	USD	1.34	1.34	0.00	1.34	0.00	100%
P172571	TF-C0775	Effective	USD	1.61	1.61	0.00	0.50	1.11	31%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P172571	TF-B2944	Effective	12-Jun-2020	30-Jun-2020	06-Oct-2020	30-Oct-2025	30-Oct-2028
P172571	TF-C0774	Closed	16-Feb-2023	27-Mar-2023	25-May-2023	30-Jun-2023	30-Sep-2023
P172571	TF-C0775	Effective	16-Feb-2023	27-Mar-2023	25-May-2023	30-Oct-2028	30-Oct-2028

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

P180570-Technology for Youth and Jobs Additional Financing